

Remarks

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on September 22, 2004. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 9-12 and 21-23. Claims 1, 3-6, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, and 17 are being amended, and claims 2 and 14 are being cancelled. In view of the following remarks and above amendments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-13, and 15-23.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 5-8, 13, and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Palmaer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,224,583). Claims 1 and 13 are being amended to include the limitation of a roller encircling the stub. Palmaer does not disclose or suggest a roller encircling the stub. Claims 5-8 and 17-20 depend from one of claims 1 and 13 which, as amended, Applicant believes are allowable over Palmaer. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 5-8, 13, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wilkins et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,746,305). Claims 1 and 13 are being amended to recite hinge members extending from a body. Wilkins et al. does not disclose or suggest a conveyor module including hinge members extending from a body. Claims 2 and 14 are being cancelled, and claims 3, 4, 15, and 16 depend from one of claims 1 and 13 which, as amended, Applicant believes are allowable over Wilkins et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Tanabe et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,527,106). As discussed above, claims 1 and 13 are being amended to recite hinge members extending from a body. Tanabe et al. does not disclose or suggest a conveyor module including hinge members extending from a body. Claims 2 and 14 are being cancelled. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 9-12 and 21-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all

of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 9 and 10 are being rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 10. Claims 21-23 depend from claim 13 which, as amended, is believed allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 9-12 and 21-23 is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5 and 15-17 are being amended to correct dependencies and reconcile the claims with one of the amended claims 1 and 13. No new matter is being added.

In view of the above remarks, amendments to claims 1, 3-6, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, and 17, and cancellation of claims 2 and 14, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-13, and 15-23. No additional fees for filing this response are believed to be due. However, if such fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them to deposit account no. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. G. Radler', written over a horizontal line.

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